

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-15 EUR-25 AID-20 EB-11 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 IGA-02 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1677

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OARG, SZ

SUBJECT: U.S. INITIATIVE TO MERGE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND UN VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM

REF: A) STATE 181318; B) GENEVA 4737

1. SEC-GEN INFORMED FRIDAY 14 SEPT OF U.S. INITIATIVE WITH FULL EXPLANATION RATIONALE. HE INDICATED ACCORD, ALBEIT SOME RELUCTANCE POINTING OUT IRONY OF DECISION FOLLOWING RECENT INDICATIONS OF INCREASED SUPPORT ISVS (NOTABLY, FRANCE, FRG, NETHERLANDS AND JAPAN). NEVERTHELESS, HE WILLING WORK IN DIRECTION OF NEW STRUCTURE WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL PRESERVE UNIQUE QUALITIES ISVS FUNCTIONS LEST THEY BECOME SUBMERGED IN UN BUREAUCRACY. FEELS PROPOSED TIMETABLE (APPROX. 15 MOS.) OPTIMISTIC AT BEST. TWO TO THREE YEAR PERIOD FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OBJECTIVES MORE LIKELY IN HIS VIEW. HE OFFERED SUGGESTION THAT MERGED ENTITY MIGHT BE STRUCTURED OUTSIDE OF UNDP IN SAME MANNER AS OTC. IN THIS WAY, HE FEELS IT WOULD DRAW UPON FULL RESOURCES OF UN. WE POINTED OUT THAT PROPOSED TASK FORCE APPOINTED FROM COUNCIL MAY WISH CONSIDER VARIOUS CONFIGURATIONS FOR NEW OPERATION.

2. TURNING TO ISSUE OF REPLACEMENT FOR DEPARTING DEPUTY

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SEC-GEN (REFTEL B) SYG SAID HE CONTACTED BY FRENCH AMBASSADOR

FOLLOWING 12 SEPT MEETING OF MISSION REPS AND INFORMED THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT EVERYONE SAYING RE FRENCH GOVT POSITION ON MATTER, THEY NOT PRESSING FOR REPLACEMENT. IT NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS INDICATION OF SHIFT IN FRENCH POSITION ON EITHER OF ABOVE ISSUES. (WE HOPE TO HAVE MORE INSIGHTS FOLLOWING TALKS PARIS FOREIGN OFFICE NEXT THURSDAY.) SYG, HOWEVER, EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE HE ABLE CONVINCE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES THAT ADMINISTRATIVE CONTINUITY CAN BE MAINTAINED BY ANYONE OF PRESENT THREE DIVISION DIRECTORS DURING HIS ABSENCES WHICH HE INSISTS WILL BE INFREQUENT DURING NEXT TERM OF OFFICE. SYG STATED FURTHER THAT FRENCH CANDIDATE FOR DEPUTY POSITION NOW WILLING SETTLE FOR ALTERNATIVE POSITION WITHIN SECRETARIAT.

3. FOR HESS: CONVEYED CONCERNS RE SANTO DOMINGO CONFERENCE. SYG EXPRESSED SURPRISE IN VIEW TALKS HE HELD WITH ALVEREZ BEFORE AND DURING UNEVENTFUL SAN JOSE CONFERENCE LAST YEAR. HE IS AWAITING RECEIPT OF CONFERENCE REPORT WHICH, IF CONFIRMS ORAL ACCOUNTS, HE PREPARED TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES GET ALVEREZ BACK IN LINE.

4. AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING, SYG MADE TWO ADDITIONAL POINTS.

(1) HE VIEWS MERGER AS APPROPRIATE TIME CONSIDER MOVING OFFICE BACK TO NEW YORK. (2) HE MAY BE INTERESTED IN HEADING UP NEW ORGANIZATION.

5. PROCEEDING TO NEXT ROUND OF TALKS PER SCHEDULE.BASSIN

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